

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut
Chairman

B-372 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-2548
Fax: 202-225-2382

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2005

Contact: Robert Briggs

**Rep. Shays to Convene Hearing on Protection of U.S.
Personnel Abroad**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, today announced the Subcommittee will hold an oversight hearing May 10 to examine State Department efforts to protect so-called "soft targets," U.S. personnel and their families overseas.

American officials overseas, representing agencies across the federal government, are facing a new safety environment in which they must conduct diplomacy and other government business. Both the Congress and the State Department have responded by funding a vigorous capital improvement program to enhance security. But many attacks against U.S. personnel overseas take place outside embassy walls.

The hearing will focus on the findings of a new Government Accountability Office report, entitled, ***Overseas Security: State Department Has Not Fully Implemented Key Measures to Protect U.S. Officials from Terrorist Attacks Outside Embassies.***

"As embassies and consulates are hardened," Shays said, "those seeking to harm us will set their sights on softer targets, places where U.S. diplomats and their families live, shop and travel. Enhancing and maintaining personal security outside the compound requires a long term strategy and sustained attention. Both are overdue."

The hearing will convene Tuesday, May 10, at 2:00 p.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

WITNESSES

PANEL ONE

Mr. Jess Ford

Director

International Affairs and Trade Division

U.S. Government Accountability Office

Mr. Greg Starr

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Countermeasures

Bureau of Diplomatic Security and Foreign Missions

U.S. Department of State

Amb. Prudence Bushnell

Dean

School of Leadership and Management

The George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center

U.S. Department of State

Mr. Keith Miller

Director

Office of Overseas Schools

U.S. Department of State

PANEL TWO

Amb. Wesley W. Egan, Ret.

Chairman

2003 Foley Accountability Review Board

Amb. John W. Limbert

President

American Foreign Service Association

Mr. Joseph Petro

Executive Vice President and Managing Director

Citigroup Security and Investigative Services

Citigroup